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**ADVOCACY PROGRAM  
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**ID ISSUES: HB 4074, 4075, 4076, 4077**

**HB 4074:** We are a grass roots re entry program that assists ex offenders to get their state ID. This has been a major problem for both STATE and COUNTY offenders. HB 4074 only addresses "certain prisoners" who can get ID by statute and it should not discriminate against the others who are re entering the community. All offenders are detained by the STATE OF MICHIGAN and should be included in this bill to insure all ex offenders are afforded ID. Any ex offender without ID poses a public safety issue and this statute should address all offenders re-entering the community. Why are we only accommodating certain offenders when they all need ID.

Offender ID photos should be mandatory for anyone that is processed through any police agency. If the booking process was consistent throughout the state, and the same photo process was used, the photo ID would be consistent. This would allow for a one time process that would be used at both county and state levels.

**HB 4075, 4076, 4077:** As a grass roots re entry program we assist ex offenders in getting ID and the Secretary of State is a major problem in clients getting their ID. I have examples where the SOS is being inconsistent in their requirements for proof needed to get ID, to the point of racial discrimination or dependant on what office you go to. The statute on ID is very clear about photo ID, when an ex felon has NO photo ID, you can't get an ID. If you are sentenced to the county jail, you have no photo ID to use to get State ID. We have attempted to get mug shots, use county bracelets with photos, or even photos from the Sex registry. The Secretary of State allows them to be used on occasions. The statute should require that the SOS is always consistent.

Further the state should consider an ID bank that keeps all documents. So that once a person has shown their birth certificate it is in a data bank and always there to defer to when someone loses their ID. Once a photo ID has been issued, a scan should be kept of each document so that people don't have to continually track the same documents over and over. Once a photo is put on an ID it should be available for SOS to view and verify that this is the same person.

There are road blocks and barriers in the way of ex offenders getting ID. This creates public safety issues and fills our jails with offenders just because they can't get ID, costing tax payers more money.

All of these bills need to have more careful consideration before passing them. We desperately need all of these bills however, we need to resolve the problem for all offenders returning, not just single out the few MPRI clients. All offenders have the same ID issues, and without ID they create a security to public safety. As legislators we pray that you will order that the SOS make consistent laws and save money by making a data bank for documents and mandate consistent ID requirements.

Through community engagement and mobilization, NWI advances the development of healthy, vibrant communities by building capacity to identify needs and formulate strategies to create change.